

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02123 171049Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /026 W
-----171057Z 037020 /23

O 160235Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7370
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 2123

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PLUS ADDED CAPTION)

STATE FOR ARA, ALSO FOR A. WHITE HOUSE FOR MARY HOYT.

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
SUBJECT: MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: PROPOSED REMARKS AT MAY 31
RECEPTION

REF: STATE 104923

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS PROPOSED TEXT OF REMARKS FOR USE
BY MRS. CARTER IN REPLYING TO PRESIDENT ODUBER'S WELCOMING
REMARKS AT NATIONAL THEATER RECEPTIO IN MAY 31.

2. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE: PRESIDENT ODUBER, FOREIGN MINISTER
FACIO, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, FRIENDS:

I WAMK OJTHANK YOU FOR THOSE EXTREMELY WARM WORDS OF WELCOME.
YOU MAKE ME FEEL TRULY AT HOME HERE.

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN COSTA RICA. AS YOU KNOW, I FIRST
VISITED COSTA RICA WITH MY HUSBAND JIMMY IN 1972 WHEN HE WAS
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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA. WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SEEING
A GOOD BIT OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY, AND EXPERIENCING YOUR
WELL KNOWN HOSPITALITY. WE LEFT WITH A FEELING THAT EVEN THOUGH
OUR VISIT WAS SHORT WE HAD ESTABLISHED MUTUAL FEELINGS OF WARM
FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT WITH MANY COSTA RICANS. I HAVE THAT SAME
FEELING AGAIN THIS VISIT.

PRESIDENT ODUBER, YOU COULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN A MORE BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO HOLD THIS RECEPTION. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE NATIONAL THEATER IS THE JEWEL BOX OF COSTA RICA AND THE JEWELS ARE THE NATIONAL CULTURAL GROUPS WHICH PERFORM HERE. BUT THE NATIONAL THEATER IS MORE THAN A BEAUTIFUL BUILDING -- IT IS A SYMBOL OF AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE COSTA RICAN NATIONAL CHARACTER - A DEVOTION TO THE ARTS AND TO CULTURE. I AM DELIGHTED THAT I WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TONIGHT TO HEAR A PERFORMANCE OF ONE OF THE FINEST GROUPS OF YOUNG MUSICIANS IN THE AMERICAS, COSTA RICA'S NATIONAL YOUTH SYMPHONY.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE COSTA RICAN NATIONAL CHARACTER -- ONE THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO PRESIDENT CARTER AND TO ME -- IS THE DEVOTION OF COSTA RICANS TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND HUMAN RIGHTS. COSTA RICA HAS ONE OF THE OLDEST AND PROUDEST TRADITIONS OF DEMOCRACY IN THE HEMISPHERE AND A PROUD TRADITION OF BELIEF IN INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND SOCIAL EQUALITY. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT WE IN THE UNITED STATES ADMIRE COSTA RICA AND RESPECT COSTA RICA FOR ITS DEMOCRATIC AND HUMANITARIAN TRADITIONS, AND THAT WE SHARE WITH COSTA RICA A CONVICTION THAT A PEOPLE CAN ONLY FLOURISH AND CAN ONLY ACHIEVE ITS HIGHEST POTENTIAL UNDER CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. WE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE AND IDENTIFY WITH COSTA RICA'S INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS. AS PRESIDENT CARTER SAID ON APRIL 14, THE UNITED STATES WILL SIGN THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED HERE IN SAN JOSE. AS HE SAID ON MARCH 17, THE UNITED STATES ENDORSES AND WILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE COSTA RICAN PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

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MY VISIT TO COSTA RICA HAS AS ITS MAIN PURPOSE AN EXCHANGE OF POINTS OF VIEW WITH LEADERS OF COSTA RICA ON IMPORTANT ISSUES AND POLICIES. PRESIDENT CARTER WANTED ME TO COME HERE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU THE POLICIES OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, TO HEAR THE THOUGHTS AND REACTIONS OF COSTA RICAN LEADERS TO THOSE POLICIES, AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE, HE WANTED ME TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF COSTA RICAN LEADERS ON IMPORTANT QUESTIONS OF THE DAY AND TO SEEK A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR GOALS, POLICIES, AND OBJECTIVES. HE ALSO WANTED ME TO LEARN OF YOUR PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS AND TO ELICIT YOUR IDEAS OF WHAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT COULD OR SHOULD DO TO HELP WITH THOSE CONCERNS. MR. PRESIDENT, ALL OF THESE IMPORTANT THEMES WERE COVERED IN MY MEETING WITH YOU AND FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO THIS AFTERNOON. I BELIEVE THAT OUR MEETING WILL HELP TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER THE BASIS FOR CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.

FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, I WANT TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU FOR HAVING CREATED THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO MEET ALL OF

YOUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS THIS EVENING. ALTHOUGH IT IS VERY
BRIEF, THIS PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THDNFULL RANGE OF COSTA RICAN
LEADERSHIP AND WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS GREATLY
ENHANCES MY UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THE COSTARICAN PEOPLE ARE COSTA
RICA'S MOST IMPORTANT NATIONAL RESOURCE. END QUOTE. KILDAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANJO02123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770196-1122, D770172-1153
Format: TEL
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770552/aaaabtgf.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d555be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 104923
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2504378
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS. CARTER'S VISIT: PROPOSED REMARKS AT MAY 31 RECEPTION
TAGS: OVIP, (CARTER, ROSALYNN)
To: STATE WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d555be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009